



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NIGERIAN MAN INDICTED FOR IDENTITY THEFT**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Nigerian man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for identity theft.

**Soji A. Olowokandi**, 25, a citizen of Nigeria and former resident of Moberly, Mo., was charged with identity theft in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that on May 7, 2003, **Olowokandi** used the Social Security number belonging to another person without lawful authority.

Today's indictment replaces a criminal complaint filed on Dec. 23, 2003. According to an affidavit filed in support of that criminal complaint, several employees of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which has an office in Columbia, Mo., recently discovered that their identities (names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth) had been compromised. As a result, numerous credit card and cellular telephone applications had been submitted in their names. At least 14 NRCS employees assigned to Missouri have had unauthorized credit access and/or attempts made using their true names and corresponding Social Security numbers.

The complaint alleges that on May 7, 2003, **Olowokandi** used the stolen identity of an employee of the NRCS to purchase a 1996 Chevrolet Blazer for \$10,345 from King Dodge, an automobile dealership in St. Louis, Mo. **Olowokandi** allegedly used a fraudulent Ohio driver's license displaying the true name, Social Security number and date of birth of the victim as identification. **Olowokandi** allegedly wrote a check for \$326 as a down payment and financed the remaining amount, using the victim's financial identity and credit worthiness.

According to the affidavit, eight additional credit accounts were opened using the

victim's stolen identity.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)